REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNOR AND COMMITTEE

OF THE

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY,

TO BE

LAID BEFORE THE SHAREHOLDERS

ON TUESDAY, JULY 9TH, 1889.

LONDON:

PRINTERS: SIR JOSEPH CAUSTON AND SONS, 9 EASTCHEAP, E.C., AND SOUTHWARK STREET, S.E.



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1889.

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DIRECTORS.

Gobernor.

SIR DONALD A. SMITH, K.C.M.G.

Beputy-Gobernor.

VISCOUNT ANSON.

Committee.

EDWARD WILLIAM TERRICK HAMILTON, Esquire. Sir Thomas R. Edridge.

SANDFORD FLEMING, Esquire, C.M.G
Sir Charles Russell, Q.C., M.P.

RUSSELL STEPHENSON, Esquire.

WALTER VAUGHAN MORGAN, Esquire.

THOMAS RANNIE GRANT, Esquire.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

A GENERAL COURT of the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay will be held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, on Tuesday, the 9th of July next, at Two o'clock p.m., when a Report from the Governor and Committee will be laid before the Shareholders and a Dividend declared.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed on the 24th instant, and reopened on 11th July.

By order of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Committee of the said Company,

W. ARMIT,

Hudson's Bay House, London, June 20th, 1889. Secretary.

Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to a requisition in writing by 25 Members and upwards entitled to vote, and holding in the aggregate more than 500 Shares in the Company, an Extraordinary General Court of the Company will be held at City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, in the City of London, on Tuesday the 9th of July, 1889, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, or as soon as the business of the General Court of the Company convened for that day shall be concluded, or the same shall have been adjourned, to consider and decide on the following resolutions—namely:—

- (1) That the present Shares be re-arranged on the basis of dividing the Members' interest in such of the Company's Lands in the Dominion of Canada as are not required for the Company's trading purposes from all the Company's other interests—the latter to continue to be represented by the present Shares, and the former by a separate denomination of Shares or by Land Warrants.
- (2) That the rights now enjoyed by Shareholders of Limited Liability Companies of inspecting the Register of Members, and obtaining copies or extracts therefrom, be given to the Members of the Hudson's Bay Company.
- (3) That no Member in the Hudson's Bay Company be eligible as a Member of the Board unless he has held his qualification for at least six months before the date of his nomination.
- (4) That the Board be requested to take the necessary steps to carry the foregoing Resolutions into effect.

By order of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Committee of the said Company,

W. ARMIT.

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE, London, June 20th, 1889. Secretary.

REPORT.

The Governor and Committee have now to submit to the Proprietors the Annual Accounts of the Company, and to state that the Furs sold in the spring of the present year realised much better prices than those of last year, the advance extending to Martens, Minks, and other fine Furs, the decline in the value of which had been very marked for some years previously.

The portion of the returns of Outfit 1887, sold in 1888, realised, however, only the low prices of that year. This, together with an unusual scarcity of Furs and country provisions (the latter causing much distress among the Indians in the Northern Districts), produced a less satisfactory result than otherwise might have been expected.

The Profits of Outfit 1887 exhibited by the Trading Account (No. 1.) amount to £85,924 5s. 5d., as compared with £36,203 11s. 6d. for Outfit 1886.

(No. 2.) The sum of £17,370 14s. 7d. is payable to the Officers in terms of the Deed Poll, and in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Shareholders in June, 1887, the Officers are (No. 4.) entitled to the further sum of £2,429 5s. 5d. to make up their remuneration for Outfit 1887 to £200 per share.

(No. 3.)

(No. 5.)

The Company's Marine Insurance Fund shows a satisfactory result. It will be observed that after crediting the amount of Premiums on Insurances undertaken by the Company and interest on the amount of the Fund, the sum of £3,572 19s. 1d. has been transferred to the credit of Profit and Loss, the balance being the same amount as last year—namely, £50,000.

The net Profits of the Company for the year ending 31st May last amount to £68,022 4s. 4d., to which must be added £43,822 6s. 3d. carried forward from last year, making a total undivided balance of £111,844 10s. 7d., out of which the Governor and Committee recommend a dividend of 14s. per share, amounting to £70,000. The amount to be carried

forward after the payment of the proposed dividend is £41,844 10s. 7d.

The Governor and Committee have to report with much regret that in January last Mr. Eden Colvile, owing to failing health, resigned his position as Governor of the Company, with which he had been connected for so many years.

Acting under the powers conferred by the Charter, the Board elected Sir Donald A. Smith Governor, and Viscount Anson Deputy-Governor of the Company. The vacancies on the Committee caused by these changes, and by the resignation of Mr. Thomas H. Newman, have been filled by the election of Mr. Walter Vaughan Morgan, of 42, Cannon Street, and Mr. Thomas R. Grant, Governor of the Union Bank of London.

These elections are subject to confirmation by the Share-holders at the General Court to be held in November or December next, in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Charter.

In accordance with the desire expressed by Shareholders at the last Meeting of the Company, the Board have given fuller details in the Trading Account than formerly, and after consultation with Mr. Welton, the Company's Auditor, on questions relating to the Accounts under the altered circumstances of the trade, they have given instructions to the Officers abroad to make certain changes in the mode in which the Accounts are kept at the principal Depots. It is anticipated that when these changes are carried out, still further information may be given without detriment to the interests of the Company.

(No. 6.) The Company's Land Account, exhibiting the cash receipts and disbursements for the year ending 31st March last, shows a Credit Balance of £24,658 4s. 3d.

The receipts now credited for instalments and interest amount to £30,488 8s. 9d. as compared with £32,739 7s. 9d. for the year ending 30th March, 1888, while the expenses of the Land Department are nearly the same as those of the previous year, except in the item of £3,927 3s. now charged for the

Company's further proportion of Surveys made by the Dominion Government, which is larger than usual and covers all arrears to the end of 1887.

Prior to the death of Mr. Brydges the Land Commissioner of the Company, which occurred in February last, the Board had taken steps with the view to the reduction of the controllable expenses of the Land Department. This Department is now under the supervision of Mr. J. H. Lawson, one of the Company's Officers, and the reductions referred to are being carried out, every endeavour being made to render the service more efficient.

The Sales of Farm Lands and Town Lots by the Company during the past year have been:—

Farm Lands—26,18	39 acı	res			\$144,950
Town Lots.					
Winnipeg		10	\$ 1:	2,000	
Minor Towns		133		1,024	
			_		43,024
					\$187,974

as compared with \$66,090 for the year ending 30th March, 1888, and \$54,565 in the previous year.

The total sales effected by the Company to the end of March last, exclusive of cancelled sales, are as follows:—

Farm Lands.					
$195,150 \mathrm{\ acres}$				• •	\$1,159,850
Town Lots, (equal to	abou	ıt ê th c	f an ac	ere each)	
$\mathbf{Winnipeg}$				1,080	845,156
Rat Portage				279	37,553
$\mathbf{West}\;\mathbf{Lynne}$				$\bf 242$	23,347
Portage la Prair	rie			194	32,381
${f Edmonton}$		• •		494	23,272
${f Prince\ Albert}$				348	13,448
Fort Qu'Appelle	· . ·			151	12,665
${f Rosemount}^-$				86	3,272
$\operatorname{Colvile}$				23	2,030
${f Elphinstone}$				11	220
Newdale				92	135
Millwood				10	255
$egin{array}{ll} ext{Nipigon} & \dots \end{array}$	• •	• •	• •	8	405

\$2,153,989

on account of which, instalments have been received amounting to \$1,747,759, leaving unpaid \$406,230.

namely:-in arrear	 	\$160,660
not yet due	 ••	245,570
		\$406,230

Payments for Farm Lands and Town Lots are generally extended over eight and five years respectively, and interest is charged on the balances remaining unpaid.

The total amount of Land in Manitoba and the North-West Territory surveyed by the Dominion Government to the close of 1888 amounted to nearly 72,000,000 acres, the proportion of which falling to the Company under the Deed of Surrender made in 1869, is about 3,600,000 acres. Irrespective of the Company's portion, the Government have granted nearly 40,000,000 acres to the Canadian Pacific and other Railway Companies for the extension of Lines, by means of which the vast resources of the Fertile Belt are being developed; and they have further disposed of 12,719,000 acres as free Homestead Grants, Pre-emptions, and sales to settlers.

A large immigration from Europe and the older Provinces of the Dominion to Manitoba and the North West Territory—a favourable season for seeding operations—and the prospect of the opening up of New Districts, by the further extension of Railways—have had the effect of increasing the demand for Farm Lands during the past few months, the Sales in April and May (since the accounts were closed) having been 14,314 acres for \$80,118.

With the improvement in immigration and consequent demand for farms by actual settlers, it may be reasonably expected that the Sales of the Company's Lands will greatly increase, and that it will before long be the pleasing duty of your Board to resume the payment from time to time of substantial sums as return of Capital.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL COURT.

In compliance with requisitions received from Shareholders, the Board have called an Extraordinary General Court to consider the propositions set forth in the Notice prefixed to this Report.

As regards the proposition that the present shares be rearranged on the basis of dividing the Members' interest, the Board are advised that this change cannot be carried into effect without an Act of Parliament, or an alteration of, or supplement to, the Company's Charter; and the Board are further advised that no application for fresh powers would be entertained, unless a clearly defined scheme were submitted, setting forth the objects and advantages to be derived from it.

The proposition to make two classes of Shares, the one applicable to the Fur Trade, the other to the Lands is no new one. It was put forward as far back as 1871, and again in 1874, and has had the careful consideration of your Directors.

The Company, under terms of the Deed of Surrender, are entitled to one-twentieth of all the Lands which may be surveyed for settlement within fifty years from 22nd of June, 1870, in the district stretching from the Lake of the Woods westward to the Rocky Mountains—a distance of at least one thousand miles—and northward from the International Boundary in latitude 49 to the North Saskatchewan River—fully 300 miles—this territory being known as the "Fertile Belt." The Company's land is not in large blocks, but in detached sections of 640 and 480 acres each in every township, at a distance of three miles approximately from each other throughout the whole extent of the above vast area.

The Company's proportion of the land surveyed up to the present time is about 3,600,000 acres, and it is impossible to say how much may be added to this, the quantity depending on the extent of the Government Surveys under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act as agreed to by the Company. It is on this and other grounds clearly impracticable to place

anything like a reliable value on the property as a whole, to which the Company may be ultimately entitled.

While it may be correct, as stated in a communication dated the 25th April last, circulated among the Shareholders, that the prices charged by the Canadian Government, the Canada North West, and other Land Companies, including the Hudson's Bay Company, range from \$2½ per acre upwards, it must be borne in mind that the land thus disposed of is situated chiefly within easy distance of the Railways, in most cases from one to fifteen miles on either side of them, while, as above stated, the great bulk of the Company's Land lies so far away from Railway connection, and from roads of any description, that it is at the present moment virtually unsaleable.

In connection with the statements in paragraph 4 of the circular referred to, that the value of the Company's Lands has steadily risen, and that the Dividends mainly govern the price of the Shares, it must be recollected, that 1880, 1881, 1882, and 1883, was a period of extravagant speculation in Farm Lands and Town Lots in Manitoba and the North-West Territory, during which prices became inflated to a fabulous extent, and that it was from the proceeds of sales while that "boom," as it was called, lasted, that the return of Capital to the extent of £400,000 was made. This state of things, irrespective of the fluctuations in the Fur trade profits, accounts for the extraordinary rise in the prices of the shares at that time, and for the subsequent inevitable decline.

The remedy proposed as a preventative of fluctuation in the price of the Company's Shares that of having two classes of Shares, appears to your Directors to be fallacious in the extreme in the case of this Company, as it is self-evident that no substantial benefit could be derived by merely splitting up the Shares into two parts or classes. On the contrary, your Directors are of opinion that the change would result in grave injury to the best interests of the Company. By placing a fictitious value on the lands, the danger would be incurred, not only of greatly

increased taxation—an item even now very onerous, but also of increased speculative fluctuation in the price of the Shares. To this must be added the possibility of complications, resulting in conflicting interests between the two classes of Shareholders, and in serious embarrassment to the Company.

Altogether, your Directors, after giving the subject their most earnest consideration, can arrive at no other conclusion than that it would be unwise to alter the character of the Shares as at present constituted, and, being so impressed, they cannot recommend the adoption of the proposition.

The second proposition offered for consideration suggests an alteration in the Bye Laws, to enable any Shareholder to inspect the Register of Shares and to obtain copies or extracts therefrom. It may, however, be pointed out that, on application, Shareholders have hitherto obtained from the Company lists of the Members with their addresses, but not their holdings as given by Companies under the Limited Liability Acts. The Board see no good object to be obtained in making the proposed change, and do not advise its adoption.

They cannot recommend the adoption of the third proposition, under which no Shareholder would be eligible for election as a Member of the Board, unless he had held his qualification for at least six months before the date of his nomination. The proposed restriction might have the effect of excluding from the Board, gentlemen specially fitted for the duties, either by reason of their intimate knowledge of the Country in which the Company's business is mainly conducted, or of other desirable qualifications.

In conclusion your Directors wish to assure the Shareholders that while they are unable to recommend the adoption of the above propositions, they will at all times readily co-operate in any measures which they can conscientiously regard as for the true interests of the Company.

DONALD A. SMITH,

Governor.

(1.) TRADING

ACCOUNT.

une, 1887,

Exhibiting the Profit and Loss results during Outfit 1887; namely, from 1st Jun	388.
and Loss results during Outs	to 31st May, 1888.
Exhibiting the Profit	圖r.

الله الله الله الله الله الله الله الله	to 31	st M	to 31st May, 1888.
To Inventories 1st June, 1887, viz. —	. જે લ્ફ	s. d.	By Proceeds of Furs and other
General Goods 316,271 5 0			Great Britain, the Returns
Outfit			after deducting Freight,
Ships and Steamers 43,458 16 2 Trading Establishmonts 88 86 0 0			", Proceeds of Goods realized in
_			and other credits incident
Cash at Trading Stations 10,221 15 8			Discount on Insurance Promit
567,908 18 10			"Inventories 31st May, 1888, v
Less Dalances due to Cus-			General Goods
Clerks and			Advances to next Outfit
Servants 16,482 6 2	541.426 12	œ	
" Goods, Provisions, and Stores purchased in			Trading Establishments
England, supplied for Outfit 1887	124,033 8 11	11	Balances due by Customers
, Amount written off as depreciated value of			
Ships and balance of Ships' Accounts	2,757 8	0	Cash at Trading Stations
" Purchase of Furs and Country Provisions			0
in the Territory, and Transport, Insurance,			
Customs' Duties, and other debits incidental			Less Balances due to Customers,
to carrying on the Trade of Outfit 1887	139,125 4	6	Clerks and Servants
" Fire Insurance Fund	2,000 0	0	

rin	ring Outht 1887; namely, from 1st Jun	from 1st Jun
M	May, 1888.	
75	E - C	p 's g
	by receeds or furs and other imports into Great Britain, the Returns of this Outfit,	r Imports into s of this Outfit,
	after deducting Freight, Dock Charges, Cartage, Fire Insurance, &c.	Dock Charges,
	" Proceeds of Goods realized in the Territory	the Territory
	on the Trade of Outfit 1887	/
	" Discount on Insurance Premiums	•• •• sum
	"Inventories 31st May, 1888, viz.	riz.—
	General Goods	337,462 13 4
	Advances to next Outfit	28,094 15 4
œ	Ships and Steamers	43,334 2 4
	Trading Establishments	60,416 12 4
-	Balances due by Customers	83,772 10 4
		553,080 13 8
-	Cash at Trading Stations	10,078 1 5

985 5

62,213 15

307,416 5

540,160 10 10

563,158 15

22,998 4

								`			
							13,758 17 10	1,000 0 0	750 0 0	85,924 5 5	£910,775 17 7
,, Expenses incurred in London, 1st June, 1887, to 31st May, 1888, viz.:-	Governor and Committee 3,500 0 0	Salaries of Secretary and other Officers 3,922 6 3	house, and Sundry Charges 3,025 13 5	Rent and Taxes of Offices in Leadenhall Street, and Warehouse in Lime	Street 2,296 16 6	Miscellaneous Expenses, including Agency in Scotland, Law Charges, Stationer, Printing, &c. 1,014 1 8		" Salary, &c., to Local Officers	" Pensions and Donations in London and abroad	" Balance, being Profit on Outfit 1887, carried to Account No. 2	

£910,775 17 7

(2.) APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

Outfit 1887, and previous Outfits. Ę.

Cr.

85,924.5 5 351 By Balance, being Profit on Outfit 1887, ,, Profit on realization of outstanding as per Account No. 1 Outfit 1886 .. accounts, viz.:-68,800 0 2 ö 17,370 14 7 104 17 11 To Officers, for their share of Profits, after " Hudson's Bay Company, for the Balance, " Fur Trade Officers' Reserve Fund: Amount appropriated thereto ... as per Account No. 4 deducting Interest

£86,275 12 8

£86,275 12

(S.) MAKINE IN	(6.) MAKINE INSUKANCE FUND.	
	31st May, 1889.	Œr.
1889. £ s. d.	1888.	£ 8. d.
May 31. To Loss on sundry Shipments in respect of Insurances by the Com-	June 1. By amount of Fund at this date £50,(£50,000 0 0
pany 218 12 4	1889.	
" Amount transferred to Profit and	May 31. ,, Amount of Premiums on Insurances by the Company for Account of	
Loss Account (No. 4) 3,572 19 1		
., Balance 50,000 0 0	to 31st May, 1889 Interest for one year	1,774 1 6 2,017 9 11
£63,791 11 5		£53,791 11 5
	May 31. By Balance brought down £50,0	£50,000 0 0

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

LOSS.

L O	1889.
r AND	1888, to 31st May,
FROFIT	st June, 1888,
(4.) F	18

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sioned Officers for Appropriation	,	å		By Profit on Fire Trade bronght to enodit this mean	A	oć.	d.
under Guarantee, 28th June, 1887	2,429 5 5	Ö		as per Account No. 2	6 0 008 89	-	c
", Fur Trade Officers' Reserve Fund for ditto	15 2 1	63		Balance of Interest on Fur Trade Account	9 139 10	٠ -	3 4
" Interest on Officers' and Servants' Deposits	2,030 5 9	c		"Profit from Underwriting Account as ner		4	ŧ
" Interest on Marine Insurance Fund	2,017 9 11	6		Account No. 3	3,572 19	19	_
"Income Tax	1,416 12 3	12		". Interest, Dividends, and Sundries	3,930 14 6	14	9
" Salary to Local Officer	0 0 009	0			`\		
" Payment to the Bishop of Rupert's Land, under agreement with the Commany and							
of the Court of Chancery, dated							
December, 1849	300 0 0	0	0				
" Miscellaneous Expenses	1,705 4 4	4	4	``.			
Balance carried to General Profit and Loss							
Account (No. 5), being Net Profits	68,022 4 4	4	4				
	£78,436 4 1	4	1		£78,436 4 1	4	-

VNAGMOO A V C D'NODULLI

HODSON	S BA	HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.	
(5.) GENERAL	PROFIT	(5.) GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	ı
Ar.	31st May, 1889.	, 1889.	Œr.
To Balance carried down, being Undivided Profits at 31st May, 1889	£ s. d.	By Balance 31st May, 1888, brought forward ,, Profit for year ending 31st May, 1889, as per Account No. 4	£ s. d. 43,822 6 3 68,022 4 4
			·
		May 31. By Balance, brought down £	£111,844 10 7

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· 月	(6) Exhibiting the Cash Description	.) L. (.)		
· (引	Transpirent and fracer	nun sid	rsourseme	the Cash receipes and Disoursements, from 1st April, 1888, to 31st March, 1889. Et.
1889.			£ s. d.	1888,
Mar, 31.	Mar. 31. To Charges on Land in Manitoba and the North. West Territory to date:—	the North.		April 1 By Balance of Account to 31st March, 1888 18,136 1 2
	Amount paid to Government on account of Surveys £3,	£3,927 3 0		Mar. 31 ,, Cash received at Winnipeg in respect of Sales of Land as follows:—
	Municipal and other Taxes 9,8	9,854 8 7		Winnipeg Town Lots £2,085 8 7
			13,781 11 7	쟖
	Repairs & Improvements £(£682 6 9		Rat Portage " 696 10 6
	Annual charge for depreciation of Buildings 2.	2.008 15 4		Edmonton ,, $223 ext{ 1 g}$ Prince Albert ,, $21 ext{ 4 5}$
	1		2.691 2 1	Appelle ,, 54 15 1
	mmis-			,, 15 8
	nd Clerks	£2,416 19 7		nt ,, 149
	Surveyors inspecting and reporting on Lands	750 10 9		Militwood ,, 59 4 11 Nepigon ,, 29 10 5
•	Ex-			Lands in Manitoba
	:	1,618 3 1		and the North West Territory 18,376 2 2
	Legal Expenses 1,4	1,476 18 9		
	g and	847 9 10		£? [nstal-
		- 1	7,110 2 0	ments and Kents 4,934 17 0
	" Charges on Land in British Columbia to date for Taxes and Miscellaneous Expenses	umbia to Expenses	383 10 0	•
	" Balance	: ' :	24,658 4 3	Instalments on Sales 2,741 0 6 Interest on unpaid Instalments
				and Rents 1,092 7 10
		લા	£48,624 9 11	
,				March 31. By Balance brought down £24,658 4 3

(7.) BALANCE-SHEET. 31st May 1889

J	Dr. 31st May, 1889.	y, 1889.	Œr.
	£ 8. d. £ 8. d.	₹ . b . 8 . 4.	s. d.
To	To Capital— 100,000 Shares of £20 each2,000,000 0 0	By Cash in hand and on Deposit in London196,786 6 5	
	Less return to Proprietors of £7 per Share 700,000 0 0	tations, 31st 10,078 1 5	
:	•		04 / 10
:	Amount due to Clerks and	", Buldings in Winnipeg and North West Territory 56,484 8 10	111 048 15 11
•	Servants at Trading Stations, 31st May, 1888 12,009 6 5	and	9,561 12 4
2	Amount are to Castofficers, size May 1888, as per Trading Account 10.988 17 10	" Amount invested in the Fur Trade (exclusive of Goods	
*	Unpaid Dividends, and other Balances (exclusive of amount	in course of Shipment), viz. Valuation of Trading Goods, Provisions, Stores, &c. as	
	due in respect of Goods in course of shipment on 31st	per Inventory 31st May, 1888	
		Amount due by Customers as ner Inventory 31st May	
5	to 31st March, 1889, as	1888 83,772 10 4	
2	per Account No. 6 24,658 4 3 Marine Insurance Fund, as per Account No. 3 50,000 0 Tradicided Profits as nor Account No. 5 11,844 10 7	553,080 13 8 Advances in London for	
•	:	carrying on the Trade, subsequent to 31st May, 1888 309,088 9 10	
		Ocean Ships and Steamers employed in the Trade 8,198 14 6 870 367 18	20 00
		"Balance represented by the remaining Property of the Company 400,214	
	21,598,065 1 6	£1,598,055	55 1 6
	17 17		

Examined and found to be in due accordance with the Books, Accounts, and Vouchers of the Company.

5, Moorgate Street, London,
14th June, 1889.

THOMAS A. WELTON,

THOMAS A. WELTON, Anditor. (Welton, Jones & Co.)





